

# NORTHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT.

SPENCER PARADE,  
NORTHAMPTON,

APRIL, 1921.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1920. During the year the various Housing Schemes have been taking shape and becoming a reality. Progress has been slow, nevertheless houses have been and are being built. In places some have been finished and are now occupied. Fuller details of these will be found at the end of the report.

During this year the census will be taken. This has been badly needed owing to the great disorganization everywhere caused by the war. The population for the district at the 1911 census was 6,699. The estimated population for 1920 was 5,830.

The district is essentially a rural one, although in places villages are tending to become suburbs, especially is this so at Dallington and Weston Favell. Duston will soon become so.

The total number of births in 1920 was 128—77 males, 51 females; 4 males and 3 females were illegitimate. This makes a ratio of 21·9 births per 1,000. The birth rate for England and Wales was 25·4. We have to go back to the year 1904 for a higher birth rate of 22·6 and 144 births. Before 1904 the birth rates were still higher. This favourable state of things appears to be only a temporary one, in the earlier months of 1921 there has been a marked falling off. Deaths were exceptionally few only 61—31 males and 30 females. This makes a ratio of 10·4 deaths per 1,000. This is the lowest on record that can be found, going back to 1901. For England and Wales the death rate was 12·4 per 1,000. There were no deaths from scarlet fever, enteric, whooping cough or diphtheria, nor from influenza.

Pulmonary tuberculosis three; heart disease again has the highest number, ten males and four females; bronchitis, three; pneumonia, five; nephritis, one. There were no deaths from diarrhoea and sickness, accountable to a large extent by the mildness of summer. Seven infants died under one year; one of these was illegitimate; three died from weakness; two from bronchitis; one was premature and one from convulsions. One died between the age of one and two years from gastritis and convulsions; of deaths at the other end of life—one was 93 years of age; two were 90; three were over 80; eight were over 70 years of age.

There was one case of accidental death through sleeping with head acutely bent on body, in a lad of 19 years of age. Two suicides were found in the district and one murder took place quite near the boundary with the Borough. These three unfortunate people all belonged to Northampton.

The cases of infection notified during the year were as follows :—

Scarlet fever, two.

Enteric, one.

Diphtheria, one.

Pneumonia, one.

Erysipelas, one.

Tuberculosis. Pulmonary, six—of other parts, one.

„ Berry Wood—Pulmonary, four—of other parts, one.

One case reported as tuberculosis was found to be a case of bad heart disease. The cases at Berry Wood Asylum have been separated from the rest of the district. This seems to give a fairer estimate of the tuberculosis cases belonging to the district.

One case of scarlet fever at Bugbrooke; cause unknown. One case at Great Billing the mother thought was measles for the first fortnight. A doctor was then called in and found the child peeling. She was well isolated at home.

The enteric case occurred at Billing Mill, in a child of six years. Analysis of the water showed coliform bacilli present, but no definite typhoid bacilli could be isolated. The well is situated close to the river on one side and on the other near the farm-yard which was found in a very wet state. Contamination of the water was easy.

The diphtheria case was at Duston. Infection occurred at a school in Northampton where she taught. A child in her class had contracted the disease recently. Excluding tuberculosis cases, there was only one infectious disease notification after July.

There were no school closures. Great Billing had an outbreak of whooping cough in May. Weston Favell had measles prevalent in July. At Harpole, some cases of scabies in two families were notified. Dallington had a few cases of measles in February and June.

One person was visited who might have been in contact with small pox in a foreign port.

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1920.

**DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.**—There are at present 34 registered dairies and cowsheds in the district ; one more than last year. Seventy inspections have been made. Five informal notices served, all *re* linewashing. These were complied with. Very little butter making is being done in the district, most of the milk being sent into Northampton after the requirements of the villages have been met.

**SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.**—The number of places where slaughtering is done is six. Eighteen inspections have been made ; one informal notice served *re* limewashing and cleansing, this was complied with. In addition to the above, calls are often made when slaughtering is likely to be going on. One unhealthy carcase of pork was surrendered, weight about 120lbs. This was destroyed by sending it to Parker Grays Works, under the Waste Foods Order.

**BAKE-HOUSES.**—There are eight places in the district which are used for baking bread, etc. These are quite small places, the occupier generally being the only person employed. Twelve inspections have been made ; one informal notice served *re* limewashing, which was complied with. In addition to the above, there are several small places which are used at the week-ends for baking dinners.

**FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.**—There are now five factories in the district, an increase of three during the year. The increases being a Tannery at Abington Mill ; Builder's Workshop, Spinney Hill ; and a Gelatine Factory near St. James' Mill. The latter was not really in working order at the end of the year. Eight inspections have been made ; one informal notice served *re* linewashing, which has been complied with. There are three small Workshops which employ more than two persons in each. Five inspections have been made and found satisfactory. In addition to the above, there are a number of Workplaces such as Blacksmith's Shops, Carpenter's Shops, etc., and out-workers shops, none of which employ more than one person. These are inspected from time to time when making periodical inspections of the district.

### NUISANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.—

	Nuisances found.		Informal Notices.		Statutory Notices.	
Insanitary closets and ashpits	...	25	...	25	...	1
Defective and choked drains	...	5	...	5	...	...
Defective roofs	...	5	...	5	...	...
Defective water supply	...	2	...	2	...	...
Defective plaster in living-rooms	...	2	...	2	...	...
Animals improperly kept	...	2	...	2	...	...
Insanitary cesspools	...	1	...	1	...	...
Overcrowding	...	1	...	1	...	1
Dangerous structures	...	1	...	1	...	...

The Dangerous Structure was a chimney at Duston, the base breaking away leaving the top hanging. On the owner's attention being called to this, it was rebuilt forthwith. The defective water supplies were pumps out of repair. These were repaired on the owner's attention being called to them.

**DISINFECTION.**—Seven houses have been disinfected during the year. Two after cases of scarlet fever, two diphtheria, two after fatal cases of phthisis, one after a fatal case of cancer.

**WATER SUPPLIES.**—The villages of Dallington, Duston and Weston Favell are supplied by mains from the Northampton supply. Nether Heyford and Kislingbury have supplies of their own. Nether Heyford gets its supply from two sources ; complaints were received during the summer months of a shortage on the one in Mr. Adams field. The chief cause of this is insufficient storage. The water, although good does not warrant much money being spent upon it to increase the storage capacity owing to its position. The tank is too low to give a good working head of water, and there is not enough water to work a Ram to put it on higher ground. There are two springs near the village which would work a ram and supply the village, and if the shortage shows itself during the coming summer, it may be thought advisable to try and arrange a supply from one of these springs. The Kislingbury mains have been extended during the year to supply the new houses being built under the Housing Scheme. This is a first rate supply, there always being ample water for the needs of the village.

Little Billing is supplied by a private scheme. The remainder of the villages are supplied by wells, the majority of which are shallow ones. The public supplies are all constant.



Three samples of water were analysed during the year. One was after a case of enteric fever at Billing Mill. The water although found to be unfit for drinking without first being boiled, was not thought to be the cause of fever. Of the other two, one came from a well at Harpole, and the other from a well at Great Billing. In both cases the water was found to be unfit for drinking without first being boiled. The persons using the water in each case were warned of this fact.

SEWAGE SCHEMES.—The sewage schemes in the district have been working satisfactorily during the year. No complaints have been received.

PLANS.—Plans were passed during the year for three bungalows to be built of wood. The subsidy was applied for in two cases and certificates issued.

Two small villas at Spinney Hill and one at Duston for which certificates were issued under the subsidy scheme.

Two villas at Weston Favell.

Alterations to three houses ; one at Duston and two at Weston Favell.

One new house at Weston Favell.

Alterations to Co-operative Stores at Bugbrooke and Kislingbury.

SCAVENGING.—A weekly collection of the contents of pail closets is made in the villages of Bugbrooke, Nether Heyford and Weston Favell. A fortnightly collection of household refuse is made at Weston Favell. A quarterly collection of indestructible refuse is made in each of the other villages in the district.

#### HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.—

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	15
Number of closing orders made	...	...	...	...	3
Number with structural defects	...	...	...	...	8
Number of houses voluntarily closed	...	...	...	...	2
Number of closing orders determined	...	...	...	...	2

There has been some improvement during the year regarding over-crowding in the villages of Dallington and Weston Favell. These are the two villages in which new houses have been completed. The two over-crowding cases at Dallington have removed into new houses, and four of the Weston Favell cases have also removed into new houses ; there is at least another case in this village. Some action will be taken in this unless the people soon make a move to abate the nuisance, as new houses are becoming available. The housing conditions in the remainder of the villages are about the same as reported last year, but as new houses become available in these villages the over-crowding will doubtless cease.

HOUSING.—From the figures and villages presented below, it will be seen that great strides have been made in the erection and completion of houses.

Much of the over-crowding at Weston Favell has ceased.

At Bugbrooke, building operations will commence soon, a satisfactory water supply having been found on the spot.

Weston Favell—17 houses completed and occupied.

Dallington ...—15   "       "       "

#### Houses in course of erection—

Weston Favell	...	...	...	...	...	42
Dallington	...	...	...	...	...	20
Duston	...	...	...	...	...	50
Great Billing	...	...	...	...	...	6
Kislingbury	...	...	...	...	...	6

From this statement it will be seen that in the district 32 houses have been completed and 124 houses are being built.

I beg to remain,

Yours faithfully,

H. F. PERCIVAL,

To the Northampton Rural District Council.

Medical Officer of Health.

